



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health • Chronic Disease and Injury Section**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

January 12, 2007

Dear Public Health Colleague and Asthma Partner:

Asthma is an issue of public health importance in North Carolina. Asthma results in a significant health and economic burden across the state each year. The Asthma Program is part of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section in North Carolina Division of Public Health, and is committed to reducing the morbidity and mortality due to asthma throughout the state. As part of this commitment, we are pleased to announce the release of North Carolina's first comprehensive asthma surveillance report, *The Burden of Asthma in North Carolina, 2006*.

The Burden of Asthma in North Carolina, 2006 covers a variety of topics relating to asthma surveillance. These topics include asthma morbidity, mortality, management, quality of life, health care utilization, and hospitalization. This document also examines the Healthy People 2010 asthma goals set forth by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Healthy Carolinians 2010 asthma goals established by the Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians.

The information contained in this report will be invaluable not only to the North Carolina Asthma Program, but to all asthma partners and stakeholders working to improve the lives of persons living with asthma in North Carolina. This report will be updated every three years, and, along with the North Carolina State Asthma Plan to be released in March 2007, will provide a road map for accomplishing the goal of reducing the burden of asthma among North Carolinians.

We hope this information will assist in guiding asthma initiatives in your area and that you will join in the efforts of the North Carolina Division of Public Health in improving the lives of people with asthma.

For more information about the North Carolina Asthma Program, please visit
<http://www.asthma.ncdhhs.gov/>.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Plescia".

Marcus Plescia, M.D., M.P.H.
Section Chief

